

Youlgrave All Saints' C of E (VA) Primary School

GOVERNING BODY NEWSLETTER

Spring / Summer 2018

Welcome to the latest update from the School's Governing Body.

What does the Governing Body do?

The 12 Governors (listed on page 3) have strategic responsibility for the running of the School, which in effect means we take the decisions that affect the long term development and improvement of the School. The Head Teacher is responsible for day to day management and leadership, supported by the teaching and non-teaching staff, and Governors work with them to monitor progress to ensure that the children receive the best possible education. The Governing Body meets every term to discuss a wide range of issues, check how the school is performing academically and oversee its long term financial position. In order to examine issues in more detail, the Governors divide into two smaller committees - Teaching & Learning and Finance & Resources. Here are six areas where Governors are currently having an input:

The role of Link Governors

A 'Link' Governor is simply a Governor who takes responsibility for understanding and monitoring specific areas of the school's work and activity, then reporting back to the Governing Body. This can range from individual subjects like English and Maths, Science and PE, to safeguarding, Pupil Premium and health and safety. It allows those Governors with specific interest or knowledge in a certain aspect of school life to get more closely involved, as well as encouraging others to learn about different functions of the school - all with the aim of improving how and what we do in order to benefit the children's education.

Coverage of the Curriculum

The Governing Body has a particular focus on how well we are delivering the National Curriculum. Through this, the Government sets out the programmes of study and attainment targets for all subjects across the country. All local-authority-maintained schools in England must teach these programmes of study, which is centred around the '4 Rs' - reading, writing, mathematics and EGAPS. It is also why we promote sports, both in school and out of it. We have no choice but to follow this approach and we will be judged against it by Ofsted (the Government's schools inspection body).

Working together as a school

The Governing Body is extremely grateful for the ongoing support of the wider school family, including parents and carers, the School Association (YASSA), Friends of Youlgrave School and indeed the whole Youlgrave community. Through various channels, Governors work with all of these audiences to achieve a better outcome for the School. For instance, we hope to be soon in a position to provide a half-termly 'Woodlands/Environmental Learning' experience for all our children, since the Department for Education has stipulated that outdoor learning should be a educational component for Key Stages 1 and 2 (primary school age children). However, our budget simply cannot cover the full cost of organising these sort of external events and trips, so we are extremely grateful that it looks like YASSA's financial support will now make these activities happen - thank you!

Improvements to the school building

Youlgrave School was built in the 1860s and is a Grade II listed building within the village Conservation Area. Whilst we are proud of its heritage and place in the community it does mean that modernising the old building, for instance to reduce our costly energy bills, can be tricky and expensive. Governors recently met the Peak Park's Conservation Officer at the School to explore ways in which we can make improvements to the interior and fabric of the building in order to save money, as well as make the learning environment more comfortable for children and staff alike.

School 'Cluster' group

Youlgrave All Saints' is one of a number of small village primary schools that make up a 'cluster' or group linked to Lady Manners secondary school in Bakewell - which is where the vast majority of our pupils will ultimately move on to, of course. Our children regularly participate in sporting and cultural events with many of these schools, and teachers and some Governors also benefit from this relationship by periodically meeting their counterparts in other schools to share information and help each other. Governors at All Saints are committed to this partnership working which benefits all of our small village primary schools.

Data Protection

You may be aware that new legislation surrounding data protection is currently going through Parliament. It's known as the General Data Protection Regulation (or GDPR) and is intended to overhaul how businesses, groups and virtually every public or private body processes and handles an individual's personal data. Schools are of course included in this and you will have already heard from the School Business Officer about our approach; but Governors also need to understand what the School needs to do and that it is being done (as well our own individual responsibilities as Governors). To that end, we now have a GDPR Link Governor and two Governors have attended a Derbyshire County Council training event on the subject.

Who are your governors?

	<i>Type of Governor</i>	<i>Special responsibilities</i>
Saffron Baker	Parent Governor	Link Governor for Science, Computing, Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE), GDPR
Lisa Bingham	Foundation Governor / parent	Link Governor for RE and Collection Worship (shared), Safeguarding & Child Protection (shared)
Pat Cleaver	Foundation Governor	Link Governor for Safeguarding & Child Protection (shared)
Anne Cooper	Foundation Governor, Chair of Finance & Resources Committee	Link Governor for Early Years & KS1, RE & Collective Worship (shared), Health & Safety (shared)
Tim James	Staff Governor	
Andrew McCloy	Foundation Governor / parent, Chair of Governors	Link Governor for English
Richard Partridge	Foundation Governor / parent	Link Governor for Pupil Premium
Adele Pearcy	Local Authority Governor, Chair of Teaching & Learning Committee	Link Governor for Special Educational Needs & Disabilities
Paul Skinner	Parent Governor	Link Governor for Sport & PE, Health & Safety (shared)
Heather Stelling	Head Teacher, ex officio	
Nicola Walker	Foundation Governor / parent, Vice Chair of Governors	Link Governor for Mathematics
The Vicar	Foundation Governor, ex officio - post currently vacant	

For more details about who we are and what we do what we do see the 'Who's Who' pages of the school website <https://www.youlgraveallsaints.co.uk/> (in the 'About Us' section). To learn about our work over the last year and how we are trying to make a difference click on the pdf document 'Youlgrave, All Saints' Governing Body Impact & Effectiveness Statement 2017'. For more general information on the role of a School Governor go to http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/school_governors/.

Get in touch with us

If you have any comments or suggestions, either for Link Governors about specific aspects of the School, or perhaps just general points, please speak to any of the Governors in person; email the school at Enquiries@youlgrave-allsaints.derbyshire.sch.uk; or leave a message with Fran in the school office and we'll get back to you. If you are perhaps thinking of becoming a Governor one of us would be only too willing to have a quiet chat and answer any questions you may have.